GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5628
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007
GUJARAT FISHERMEN IN PAK JAILS
Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of MPs from Gujarat had met the Prime Minister in connection with the release of fishermen of Gujarat languishing in Pakistan jails; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes.

(b) Government have consistently taken up the issue of Indian fishermen with the Government of Pakistan at various levels. 258 Indian fishermen have been released by Pakistan since March 2006 till date. Prime Minister of India and Pakistan Prime Minister met on 4 April 2007 on the sidelines of SAARC Summit in New Delhi. Pakistan Prime Minister assured that Pakistan would take early action to return fishing boats seized from Indian fishermen to their owners. The two leaders also agreed to review the status of each other's citizens held prisoners in the two countries.